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EXAMINER

TANK, ANDREW L

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

11

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/714,926	Applicant(s) LEE, HAE PYOUNG	
	Examiner Andrew Tank	Art Unit 2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 19-23, 25-32, 34, 36-42, 44-46, 48-53, 55-57, 59-73 and 75-81 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 19-23, 25-32, 34, 36-42, 44-46, 48-53, 55-57, 59-73 and 75-81 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 - Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 - Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following action is in response to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d) for the instant application on November 5, 2007. Applicants have properly set forth the RCE, which has been entered into the application. Accordingly, the amendment submitted simultaneously with the RCE of November 5, 2007 has been entered and an examination on the merits follows herewith.
2. Claims 19, 30, 41, 46, 53, 57, 64-65, 68-73, and 75-78 have been directly amended. Claims 79-81 have been newly added. Claim 74 has been canceled. **Claims 19-23, 25-32, 34, 36-42, 44-46, 48-53, 55-57, 59-73, and 75-81** are pending and have been considered below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claim 75-78** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Attar et al. (US 2004/0030596), hereafter known as "Attar".
 - **Claim 75:** Attar discloses a method of controlling an avatar at a called party (page 1 [0007-0010]), the method comprising:

- receiving a signal (page 1 [0006]: “Each user (or group of users) has a computer connected to the communications network”) for controlling the avatar (page 1 [0010]: “an operator remotely controls the virtual object in real-time and animates it”), wherein the received signal is transmitted from a mobile phone to the called party (page 3 [0062] “The computer equipment can also be in the form of a mobile telephone 21”); and
- displaying the avatar at the called party in accordance with the received signal at the called party (page 3 [0061] lines 17-19),
- wherein the avatar being controlled at the called party is the same as in the mobile phone ([0061], Fig. 1: 2a and 8a both display the virtual object 6), wherein the avatar of the mobile phone is being equally controlled and displayed corresponding to the input signal generated by a user of the mobile phone ([0061]: “The still and/or animated images 10 and the virtual object 6 are animated simultaneously and independently.”).
- **Claim 76:** Attar discloses a method of controlling an avatar at a called party (page 1 [0007-0010]), the method comprising:
 - receiving a signal (page 1 [0006]: “Each user (or group of users) has a computer connected to the communications network”) for controlling the avatar (page 1 [0010]: “an operator remotely controls the virtual object in real-time and animates it”), wherein the received signal is transmitted from a mobile phone to the called party (page 3 [0062] “The computer equipment can also be in the form of a mobile telephone 21”);

- controlling the displayed avatar in accordance with the received signal (page 3 [0061] lines 17-19); and
- displaying the avatar at the called party (page 3 [0061] lines 17-18),
- wherein the avatar being controlled at the called party is the same as in the mobile phone ([0061], Fig. 1: 2a and 8a both display the virtual object 6), wherein the avatar of the mobile phone is being equally controlled and displayed corresponding to the input signal generated by a user of the mobile phone ([0061]: "The still and/or animated images 10 and the virtual object 6 are animated simultaneously and independently.").
- **Claim 77:** Attar discloses a method of controlling an avatar at a called party (page 1 [0007-0010]), the method comprising:
 - selecting the avatar being controlled using the mobile phone ([0064]: "personage 6, controlled by the operator 7, is capable of movement on the still background 10, and is variable in size, shape and color, and provided with gestures, particularly head, arm and leg movements.", i.e. operator 7 selects the avatar according to the above features, [0062]: "The computer equipment can also be in the form of a mobile telephone 21.");
 - generating a signal for controlling the selected avatar (page 3 [0061] lines 17-18); and
 - transmitting the signal to the called party via a network (Fig. 1 "3", page 3 [0061] line 7: "communications network 3"),
 - wherein the avatar being controlled at the called party is the same as in the mobile phone ([0061], Fig. 1: 2a and 8a both display the virtual object 6), wherein the avatar

of the mobile phone is controlled and displayed corresponding to the generated signal ([0061]: "The still and/or animated images 10 and the virtual object 6 are animated simultaneously and independently.").

- **Claim 78:** Attar discloses a method of controlling an avatar at a called party (page 1 [0007-0010]), the method comprising:
 - selecting the avatar being controlled using the mobile phone ([0064]: "personage 6, controlled by the operator 7, is capable of movement on the still background 10, and is variable in size, shape and color, and provided with gestures, particularly head, arm and leg movements.", i.e. operator 7 selects the avatar according to the above features, [0062]: "The computer equipment can also be in the form of a mobile telephone 21.");
 - displaying the selected avatar on the mobile phone (page 4 [0065] lines 8-10);
 - generating a signal for controlling the displayed avatar (page 3 [0061] lines 17-18);
and
 - transmitting the signal to control the displayed avatar to the called party via a network (Fig. 1 "3", page 3 [0061] line 7: "communications network 3"),
 - wherein the avatar being controlled at the called party is the same as in the mobile phone ([0061], Fig. 1: 2a and 8a both display the virtual object 6), wherein the avatar of the mobile phone is equally controlled and displayed corresponding to the generated signal ([0061]: "The still and/or animated images 10 and the virtual object 6 are animated simultaneously and independently.").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 19-23, 30-32, 34, 41-42, 44-46, 53, 55-56, 64-73, and 79-81** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Attar in view of Stringer (WO 200063874 A1), hereafter known as "Stringer".

- **Claims 19 and 30:** Attar discloses a method and apparatus for controlling an avatar at a called party (page 1 [0007-0010]), the method comprising:
 - displaying the avatar at the called party (page 3 [0061] lines 17-18);
 - receiving a signal (page 1 [0006]: “Each user (or group of users) has a computer connected to the communications network”) for controlling the avatar (page 1 [0010]: “an operator remotely controls the virtual object in real-time and animates it”), wherein the received signal is transmitted from a mobile phone to the called party (page 3 [0062] “The computer equipment can also be in the form of a mobile telephone 21”); and
 - controlling the displayed avatar in accordance with the received signal (page 3 [0061] lines 17-19).
 - Attar does not disclose that the avatar displayed includes a plurality of joints and that therefore the received signal for controlling the avatar includes information for

controlling at least one joint of the displayed avatar. Stringer discloses an input device for controlling an avatar on a computing device (Abstract). The avatar has a plurality of joints and parts (page 10 paragraph 2: “The virtual puppet has a plurality of independently movable body parts 710a-710d.”, Fig. 7). The movement of these parts and joints are controlled in response to motion signals that are generated from an input (page 10 paragraph 4: “displaying a virtual puppet 710 on the display 708 . . . showing movement of the portions 710a-710d of the virtual puppet 710 in response to the pressure and motion signals”). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art and the teachings of Attar and Stringer before them at the time the present invention was made to substitute the known element of the independently movable joint and part avatar, as disclosed by Stringer, for the avatar disclosed by Attar in the remote avatar controlling method of Attar. This substitution would yield the predictable result of displaying an avatar having a plurality of joints at a called party; receiving a signal for controlling the avatar, wherein the signal is transmitted from a mobile phone to the called party, the received signal corresponding to one of the joints of the avatar; and controlling at least one joint of the displayed avatar in accordance with the received signal.

- **Claims 41 and 53:** Attar discloses a method and apparatus for controlling an avatar displayed at a called party (page 1 [0007-0010], page 3 [0061] lines 17-18: “enabling computer 2 to process a virtual object 6 appearing on the display screen 2a of the computer 2”) using a mobile phone (page 3 [0062]: “The computer equipment can also be in the form of a mobile telephone 21”), the method comprising:

- displaying the avatar on the mobile phone (page 4 [0065] lines 8-10);
- generating a signal for controlling the avatar displayed at the called party and displayed on the mobile phone (page 3 [0061] lines 17-18); and
- transmitting the signal to the called party via a network (Fig. 1 “3”, page 3 [0061] line 7: “communications network 3”).
- Attar does not disclose that the avatar displayed includes a plurality of joints and that therefore the received signal for controlling the avatar includes information for controlling at least one joint of the displayed avatar. Stringer discloses an input device for controlling an avatar on a computing device (Abstract). The avatar has a plurality of joints and parts (page 10 paragraph 2: “The virtual puppet has a plurality of independently movable body parts 710a-710d.”, Fig. 7). The movement of these parts and joints are controlled in response to motion signals that are generated from an input (page 10 paragraph 4: “displaying a virtual puppet 710 on the display 708 . . . showing movement of the portions 710a-710d of the virtual puppet 710 in response to the pressure and motion signals”). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art and the teachings of Attar and Stringer before them at the time the present invention was made to substitute the known element of the independently movable joint and part avatar, as disclosed by Stringer, for the avatar disclosed by Attar in the remote avatar controlling method of Attar. This substitution would yield the predictable result of displaying an avatar on a mobile phone, where the avatar has a plurality of joints; generating a signal for controlling at least one joint

of the avatar displayed at the called party and displayed on the mobile phone; and transmitting the signal to the called party via a network.

- **Claims 64 and 65:** Attar discloses a system and method for controlling an avatar (page 1 [0007-0010]), the method comprising:
 - generating signals to control the avatar at a mobile phone (page 3 [0061] lines 17-18);
 - transmitting the signals via a network (Fig. 1 “3”, page 3 [0061] line 7 “communications network 3”);
 - receiving the signals at a called party (page 3 [0061] lines 15-19); and
 - displaying the avatar in different representations (page 4 [0064] lines 8-10) at the called party based on the received signals (page 4 [0064] lines 4-7).
 - Attar does not disclose that the avatar displayed includes a plurality of joints and that therefore the generated signal for controlling the avatar includes information are related to different representations of joint arrangements for the avatar. Stringer discloses an input device for controlling an avatar on a computing device (Abstract). The avatar has a plurality of joints and parts (page 10 paragraph 2: “The virtual puppet has a plurality of independently movable body parts 710a-710d.”, Fig. 7). The movement of these parts and joints are controlled in response to motion signals that are generated from an input (page 10 paragraph 4: “displaying a virtual puppet 710 on the display 708 . . . showing movement of the portions 710a-710d of the virtual puppet 710 in response to the pressure and motion signals”, moving a part from one position to another causes different representations of the arrangement of joints to be shown). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

and the teachings of Attar and Stringer before them at the time the present invention was made to substitute the known element of the independently movable joint and part avatar, as disclosed by Stringer, for the avatar disclosed by Attar in the remote avatar controlling method of Attar. This substitution would yield the predictable result of generating signals to control the avatar at a mobile phone, wherein the avatar includes a plurality of joints and the generated signals are related to a different joint of the avatar; transmitting the signals via a network; receiving the signals at a called party; and displaying the avatar in different representations at the called party based on the received signals, wherein each of the representations includes a different arrangement of the joints of the avatar.

- **Claims 20 and 31:** Attar and Stinger disclose the remote avatar control method and apparatus as in claims 19 and 30 above, respectively, and Attar further discloses wherein the avatar is transmitted from the mobile phone over a network (Fig. 1 “3”, page 3 [0061] line 7 “communications network 3”).
- **Claims 21, 32, 44, and 55:** Attar and Stinger disclose the remote avatar control methods and apparatuses as in claims 19, 30, 41, and 53 above, respectively, and Attar further discloses wherein the called party comprises a computer (page 3 [0061] lines 2-3).
- **Claims 22, 34, 45, and 56:** Attar and Stringer disclose the methods and apparatuses as in claims 19, 30, 41 and 53 above, respectively, and Attar further discloses wherein the called party comprises a mobile phone (page 3 [0062]).
- **Claim 23:** Attar and Stringer disclose the method as in claim 19 above, and Attar further discloses the method further comprising displaying the avatar on the mobile phone (page 4

[0065] lines 8-10) and controlling the displayed avatar equally at the mobile phone and the called party ([0061]: "The still and/or animated images 10 and the virtual object 6 are animated simultaneously and independently.").

- **Claim 42:** Attar and Stringer disclose the method as in claim 41 above, and Attar further discloses the method further comprising changing a communication mode to a control mode (page 3-4 [0063] lines 21-26).
- **Claims 46 and 57:** Attar and Stringer disclose the method and apparatus as in claims 41 and 53 above, respectively, and Attar further discloses wherein the avatar is displayed equally at the mobile phone and at the called party ([0061]: "The still and/or animated images 10 and the virtual object 6 are animated simultaneously and independently.").
- **Claim 66:** Attar and Stringer disclose the method of claim 65 above, and Attar further discloses the method further comprising displaying the avatar in different representatives at the mobile phone (page 4 [0064] lines 1-17, [0065] lines 8-11).
- **Claims 67 and 71:** Attar and Stringer disclose the method and apparatus of claims 19 and 30 above, respectively, and Attar further discloses wherein the received signal corresponds to a key input from the mobile phone (page 3 [0061] lines 4 and 23, [0062]).
- **Claims 68 and 72:** Attar and Stringer disclose the method and apparatus of claims 19 and 30 above, respectively, and Attar and Stringer further disclose wherein controlling the displayed avatar includes controlling an expression of the displayed avatar (Attar: page 3 [0063] lines 11-13, page 4 [0064] lines 14-17) and by controlling at least one joint of the avatar (Stringer: page 10 paragraph 4: "displaying a virtual puppet 710 on the display 708 . . . showing

movement of the portions 710a-710d of the virtual puppet 710 in response to the pressure and motion signals”).

- **Claims 69 and 73:** Attar and Stringer disclose the method and apparatus of claims 19 and 30 above, respectively, and Attar and Stringer further disclose wherein controlling the displayed avatar includes controlling actions of the displayed avatar (Attar: page 4 [0064] lines 7-10) and by controlling at least one joint of the avatar (Stringer: page 10 paragraph 4: “displaying a virtual puppet 710 on the display 708 . . . showing movement of the portions 710a-710d of the virtual puppet 710 in response to the pressure and motion signals”).
- **Claim 70:** Attar and Stringer disclose the method and apparatus of claims 19 and 30 above, respectively, and Attar and Stringer further disclose the method further comprising:
 - receiving another signal from the mobile phone (Attar: page 4 [0064]), the received another signal corresponding to another one of the joints of the avatar (Stringer: Stringer: page 10 paragraph 4: “displaying a virtual puppet 710 on the display 708 . . . showing movement of the portions 710a-710d of the virtual puppet 710 in response to the pressure and motion signals”); and
 - controlling the another joint of the displayed avatar based on the received another signal (Attar: page 4 [0065] lines 13-14).
- **Claims 79-81:** Attar and Stringer disclose the apparatus and systems of claims 30, 64, and 65 above, respectively, and Attar further discloses wherein the avatar being controlled at the called party is the same as in the mobile phone ([0061], Fig. 1: 2a and 8a both display the virtual object 6).

7. **Claims 25-28, 36-39, 48-51, and 59-62** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Attar in view of Stringer, as applied to claims 19, 30, 41, and 53 above, and in further view of Lloyd et al. (US 6,884,172), herein known as "Lloyd".

- **Claims 25, 36, 48, and 59:** Attar and Stringer disclose the methods and apparatuses as in claims 19, 30, 41, and 53 above, respectively, showing the relationship of a user and operator as portrayed through the use of a jointed virtual avatar. In particular, Attar also shows that the system involves "at least one virtual object" (page 1 [0006]). However, Attar and Stringer do not specifically disclose the signal comprising an identifier number for identifying the avatar being controlled. Lloyd discloses a persistent game world (Abstract) maintaining virtual avatars for individual players (col 9 lines 55-64). As with Attar, the avatars help players using mobile devices (col 3 lines 13-19) interact with the persistent world (col 11 lines 20-30). Lloyd discloses multiple players requiring multiple avatars, thereby requiring a player's identity (col 11 lines 34-35) to be defined through username and passwords (col 11 lines 38-56) or session id's (col 11 lines 63-67, col 12 lines 1-24). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Attar, Stringer and Lloyd before them at the time the present invention was made, to modify the user and operator method of interaction using a jointed virtual object taught by Attar and Stringer to include the username/password authentication or session-id's method of Lloyd, in order to obtain virtual avatars that are identifiable either by a username/password combination or by a session-id of an encoded random value. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide well-defined boundaries for virtual avatar objects (col 11 lines 31-36), as taught by Lloyd, and therefore provide well-

defined boundaries between users in a multi-operator environment (page 4 [0067]), as suggested by Attar.

- **Claims 26, 37, 49, and 60:** Attar, Stringer and Lloyd disclose the methods and apparatuses as in claims 25, 36, 48, and 59 above, respectively, showing the relationship of a user and operator as portrayed through the use of a jointed virtual avatar that requires a user authentication or session-id to identify the avatar. Lloyd further discloses that session-id's are strongly random values that are selected, mapped to an object and encoded, i.e. a key or a cipher (col 12 lines 1-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Attar, Stringer and Lloyd before them at the time the invention was made, to modify the method taught by Attar, Stringer and Lloyd to use session-id's instead of session-id's or username/password combinations, in order to obtain virtual objects that are identified using ciphers. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because, in the short term, there may be a need for a more secure and efficient means of identifying the user and virtual object (col 11 lines 63-67), as suggested by Lloyd.
- **Claims 27-28, 38-39, 50-51, and 61-62:** Attar and Stringer disclose the methods and apparatuses as in claims 19, 30, 41, and 53 above, showing the relationship of a user and operator as portrayed through the use of a jointed virtual avatar. Attar discloses this interactive method communication information to users of a communication network (page 1 [0006]), each user having a computer or mobile phone connected to the network (page 3 [0062]). Attar and Stringer do not specifically disclose whether or not the communication network is wired or wireless. Lloyd discloses a persistent game world (Abstract) maintaining

virtual avatars for individual players (col 9 lines 55-64). As with Attar, the avatars help players using mobile devices (col 3 lines 13-19) interact with the persistent world (col 11 lines 20-30). Lloyd further discloses that the communication network, such as the Internet or an intranet, can be wired or wireless (col 1 lines 51-52). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Attar, Stringer and Lloyd before them at the time the invention was made, to modify the user and operator method of interaction using a jointed virtual object and communicated through a network as taught by Attar and Stringer to expand to include both wired and wireless networks as taught by Lloyd. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to appeal to more users, as Lloyd teaches that electronic games can be played over wired and wireless connections (col 1 lines 11-13).

8. **Claims 29, 40, 52, and 63** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Attar and Stringer in view of Lloyd, as applied to claims 28, 39, 51, and 62 above, and in further view of Rosener et al. (US 2002/0028655), herein known as "Rosener".
- **Claims 29, 40, 52, and 63:** Attar, Stringer, and Lloyd disclose the operator driven jointed virtual avatar methods and apparatuses to display a controllable virtual avatar to a user by using mobile phones on a wireless network as in claims 28, 39, 51, and 62 above, respectively. Attar, Stringer, and Lloyd do not disclose that the wireless network comprises at least one of IrDA, Bluetooth, wireless LAN, RS-232, and USB. Rosener discloses a wireless communications system that is programmable and controllable in a manner that enables multi-user operation (Abstract lines 1-3). Rosener further discloses that prospective

cellular and non-cellular data can be transmitted using links. These links may be USB, RS-232, wireless LAN, IrDA, Bluetooth or HomeRF (page 6 [0069]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Attar, Stringer, Lloyd and Rosener at the time the present invention was made, to modify the jointed virtual avatar method as taught by Attar, Stringer, and Lloyd to include the wireless network system of Rosener to obtain a wireless network that includes IrDA, Bluetooth, wireless LAN, RS-232, and USB. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because one would want to comply with existing link designs (page 6 [0069]) and protocols (page 6 [0067]), as suggested by Rosener.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to independent claims 19, 30, 41, 53, 64, 65, and 75-78 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Yamamoto (US 6,169,555) - pertains to communicating through the use of animated images.
- Handelman et al. (US 6,191,798) – pertains to the limb coordination of an articulated character for interactive computer animations.
- Matsuda et al. (US 6,820,112) – pertains to a server client system containing a virtual space and virtual living objects.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Tank whose telephone number is 571-270-1692. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thur 0730-1500 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ALT
January 17, 2008

/Kieu D. Vu/
Kieu D. Vu
Primary Examiner